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# A DUET WITH OMAR

APR 28 1913

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By

ALBERT J. EDMUNDS

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With a supplement by  
James E. Richardson



# A DUET WITH OMAR

By  
**ALBERT J. EDMUNDS**

With a supplement by  
**James E. Richardson**

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*"Christ was a missionary to this island of savages in the cosmic sea."*  
(RICHARD HODGSON to the author, April 1, 1898)

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PHILADELPHIA:  
INNES & SONS, 129-135 NORTH TWELFTH STREET  
1913

**CARPENTIER**

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Clarendon type is used to denote oracles and scripture.

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DEDICATED TO MY  
JOINT-AUTHORS  
ELIZABETH AND MARY INNES  
AGED VI AND VIII

*"I'm rooting around in the Bible all the time, like you!"*

---

ALSO TO MY SINCERE CRITICS  
ESPECIALLY  
JAMES E. RICHARDSON,  
ARTHUR AND MADELEINE BRADLEY,  
JEANNETTE I. WESTCOTT  
AND ELIZABETH H. FRISHMUTH

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# A Duet With Omar

## CANTO I.

1

In days of old Imagination reigned,  
On angel wings were heights divine attained,  
    But now we rear cathedrals out of fact:  
My heaven-wooing verse by Truth is trained.

2

No priest or wizard, murmuring for hire,  
Can wrap the spirit in the final fire,  
    But **line by line** and **here and there** we glean  
The straws that blaze and all the soul inspire.

3

I saw, saith SWEDENBORG, no earthly hand  
Write on a temple for the future planned:  
    The things of Faith were heretofore believed:  
Now it is lawful that we understand.

## 4

The Seer of Skara died, and one year more  
Beheld the tempest of a world-wide war:

Strange goblins in the Bay of Boston danced,  
Like Northern lights upon a cloudy shore.

## 5

The wine that Dogberry and Shallow drank,  
Who scoff at BUNYAN by the Ouse's bank,

Had turned to fire and lighted earth and sky,  
Burning conceits that unto heaven stank.

## 6

The planet rolled convulst: not Brandywine  
Nor Lexington alone was made divine,

But Dogger Bank, Azores, Conjevaram,  
Till rainbow Stripes and Stars began to shine.

## 7

In wilder tempest, lo! a DARWIN born,  
To teach mankind the meaning of the morn;

MAX MÜLLER followed with the Sacred Books  
And saved religion from an age of scorn.

## 8

We saw the wrecks of a dissolving Rome  
And Alexandria besprent with foam,

Dasht from a wave of Oriental faith:  
We traced a live enigma to its home.

## 9

Known at Benāres, Balkh and Samarkand,  
A story went that all could understand:

How that a hermit, in the noonday heat,  
An opening heaven saw, with angel band.

## 10

White robes were waved, as in celestial dance,  
Unearthly music did the charm enhance;

The seer inquired what joy the angels knew,  
Then deeply heard in Himalayan trance:

## 11

The Buddha who shall be, the pearl unpriced,  
Is born with men to be the Hindu Christ,

In Sākya town and realm of Lumbinī:  
Therefore we glory with a joy sufficed.

12

Research revealed the spectral caravan  
Of thought : from Balkh to Antioch it ran,  
    Where LUKE was learning in a Hebrew  
        school  
The Gospel he re-wrought and gave to man.

13

In the deep waters of the ancient dark  
We dived to find thy lost finale, MARK!  
    How CHRIST appeared to PETER all alone,  
        Gave him the power, and left him true and  
            stark.

14

Neanderthal and Java yielded skulls  
From ape-humanity's abandoned hulls,  
    Dry on the shores of geologic time:  
        One fact entire theologies annuls.

15

Then ever and anon thru thought's mad whirl  
The voice of RUSKIN, blither than a girl,  
    Soothed us with music, while a deeper tone  
        Boomed from the thunderbolts CARLYLE would  
            hurl.

## 16

Where shall we turn? Religion we have traced  
 With TYLOR, FRAZER, from the frozen waste  
 Of man's primeval dreams. What seer of  
 dawn

The nightmares of the night away hath chased?

## 17

Lo, MYERS comes, to wrestle in the dark  
 And fire Truth's tinder with a tiny spark,  
 Proving that Man, the million-summered  
 fruit,  
 Dies not the death of saurian and shark.

## 18

The youth of MYERS ends the Middle Age:  
 When Science thrust him, in a noble rage,  
 Out from the heavenly cathedral porch,  
 Back thru the screened apse-window climbed  
 the sage.

## 19

If unseen powers erst workt upon the world  
 In ages far into oblivion whirled,  
 Said he, they surely work upon it now:  
 Search for the Truth in humble things im-  
 pearled!

## CANTO II.

20

My prolog was the door to homely facts,  
Not to Augustines and Theophylacts.

Be humble, reader, now; descend to earth,  
Despise not thou my modern Book of Acts.

21

An instrument is ours of traveling sound,  
Whereby we talk the hemisphere around:

When name and voice are equally unknown,  
How can the lost identity be found?

22

JAMES HYSLOP, MAN, to Science devotee,  
Has proved that trifles are the only key:

Along the long dark line the lost is found:  
“Don’t you remember what you said to me?”

## 23

Why should the Gospel word the learner shock  
 Because it names the crowing of the cock?

A trifle, say you. Nay, 'twas tragedy  
 Unto the stern Apostle of the Rock.

## 24

When BUDDHA saw the famed PHILANTHROPIST  
 In apparition mid the morning mist,

Known was the ghost to ĀNANDO by praise.  
 Of SĀRIPUTTO, who did once assist

## 25

With cheer the benefactor's dying day.

O Ānando, said BUDDHA, no display

Of mystic art identifies for thee  
 Our wealthy patron, but plain Reason's way.

## 26

Ah, gifted chorus, once by MYERS led,  
 Help me proclaim that none of you are dead!

GURNEY and HODGSON, SIDGWICK, PODMORE,  
 JAMES,

Find me the fire that feedeth more than bread!

27

When past the leader and the queen from earth,  
A sound of rain declared an end of dearth:

The sacred springs were welling once again,  
New channels hallowed by an earthquake-birth.

28

The gifted chorus had amast the facts—  
Dry, weird, grotesque, but scarred with moun-  
tain tracts—

On whose hot lava-sides the leader strong  
Turned the new channels into cataracts.

29

Far in the past the century reposed  
Wherein our eyelids never had been closed;  
All were on tiptoe for the final book:  
We knew the lofty poet had not prosed.

30

He died, and HODGSON o'er the Testament,  
Thus left unended, strenuously spent  
His glorious manhood for the Master gone,  
While woman toward the work her labor lent.

## 31

Reader, three threads of labyrinthine rays  
 Are all I ask of thee to feel, in ways  
     Now new to Science, till a cycle dawn  
 That shall dispel the darkness and the haze.

## 32

Whene'er I roam the Massachusetts hills,  
 It is not seeking for the fame that fills  
     Their vales with names like BRYANT, WHITTIER,  
 But KATE M'GUIRE, who there my fancy thrills.

## 33

JOHN WILKIE, of Chicago, never went  
 To Massachusetts, but oftentimes he spent  
     A genial evening with a man of health,  
 OSCAR DE WOLF, born there of long descent.

## 34

Fate whirled the twain to London; English air,  
 October-chilled, soon laid John Wilkie there;  
     De Wolf attended, gave him shelter, too;  
 One day, asleep upon a parlor chair,

## 35

Wilkie, awaking, straightway dreamt he had  
 Upon his knee a paper writing-pad  
     Whereon he wrote, and some deep inward  
         urge  
 To read this message to the doctor bade:

## 36

Dear Doctor: You remember Kate M'Guire  
 Who lived with you in Chester? To expire  
     In Eighteen-seventy-two her fortune was:  
 That you in London thrive is her desire!

## 37

Whereat the seer entranced completely woke,  
 And turning toward the doctor silence broke:  
     “Doctor, behold a message here for you!”  
 “What do you mean?” the doctor sharply spoke.

## 38

Without the fear of wrath or jeer, I wis—  
 No subterfuge, explosive words to miss—  
     John Wilkie simply to the doctor said:  
 “I have a message for you. It is this:

## 39

Dear Doctor: You remember Kate M'Guire  
 Who lived with you in Chester? To expire  
 In Eighteen-seventy-two her fortune was:  
 That you in London thrive is her desire!

## 40

Such was the oracle, and all amazed  
 The Doctor wildly on the patient gazed:  
 "How know you Kate M'Guire and Chester  
 town?"  
 "I know not either!" said the patient dazed.

## 41

The Doctor answered: *I was born and reared  
 At Chester, Massachusetts. Long endeared  
 To me are all those hills and valleys fair,  
 But your illusion is a trifle weird.*

## 42

*From Eighteen-sixty-six to Seventy-three  
 Northampton was my home. Thence would I see,  
 Not far away, my Chester friends again,  
 And Kate M'Guire oftentimes would wait on me.*

## 43

*Obliging girl she was, and found a pride  
In serving me, but in dead days hath died :*

*Of her these twenty years I have not thought ;  
I know not when she past out with the tide.*

## 44

The Doctor mused: Do I remember Kate  
M'Guire who lived in Massachusetts State  
With me at Chester? Eighteen-seventy-two  
Beheld her die. She hopes me kindly fate!

## 45

Turn we to HENSLEIGH WEDGWOOD. Eighty-nine  
The century told when he beheld a sign:

An arm and sword from castellated notch  
Did thru the talking wood with words  
combine:

## 46

I killed myself long since on Christmas Day.  
Would I had died the foremost in the fray!

A wounded head was mine in Eighteen-ten,  
In the Peninsula. I past away

Now four-and-forty years. It was the pen  
 That killed me, not the sword. My head again  
     Pains me whene'er I re-descend to earth,  
 Thus to communicate with mortal men.

I captured Banier; I seized his brand,  
 And in the fortress found beside his hand  
     Plans for defense. Yes, Banier. O my head!  
 John Gurwood. Failing power. You under-  
     stand.

Now, Wellington to Gurwood had the sword  
 Of Banier presented, which award  
     Is limned in emblem of heraldic arms.  
 In later days, John Gurwood, who ignored.

His wounded head, and redescribed the fight  
 Of Eighteen-twelve (his ghostly date not  
     right!)  
     Was overcome by much unwonted toil,  
 Reft his own life and sank forgotten quite.

**51**

Hensleigh and two companions all confess  
They wotted not of Gurwood and the crest,  
    But knew the Iron Duke's dispatches were  
By Gurwood given forth. As for the rest,

**52**

They wist not even that his name was John.  
While we surmise that books could lead them  
    on,

Or lurking recollection, how should thought  
Thus guide their minds unless the spirits gone

**53**

Leave a live memory behind, or haunt  
Some region of the soul? Ne'er do they daunt  
    Or drive to ridicule, except that half  
Of man that lags and fears an idle taunt.

**54**

Reason our personality dissolves,  
Or shows that this with vaster orbs revolves  
    Around some central fire, to knowledge  
naught:  
No doctrine all the hurlyburly solves.

**55**

Be patient, Man! The star-lore time is slow,  
And like her cycles is the silent flow  
    Of all our learning down the centuries:  
Millions of minds must think before we know.

**56**

“A jury of the choicest of the wise  
Of many generations” must advise  
    The judges with a verdict, but to-day  
At least we know ’tis not the soul that dies.

**CANTO III.**

**57**

Yet while the feet of Science aye must climb  
The endless ladder of eternal time,  
    To find the Truth through alchemies grotesque  
And false astrologies, the high sublime

## 58

Attends the poet. Science too he owns,  
 But all her facts are in the tints and tones  
     Of his internal being, made secure  
 Upon Comparison's foundation-stones.

## 59

Thus BUCKE, the friend of WHITMAN, wrought  
     a tower  
 Of COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS, a work of power  
     Because the **cloud of witnesses** are called  
 Who from the minster-turret sound the hour.

## 60

The seer himself, who wrote the book, began  
 By beatific vision, rare to man,  
     Seen early in mid life, the age of most  
 Who know the Highest and who lead the van.

## 61

A London evening with the mellow souls  
 Around whose names the lettered circle rolls;  
     A long dark ride alone; and lo! absorbed,  
 He saw a glory as of altar-coals.

62

All London was in flames, he surely thought,  
And from the chariot-window gazed distraught  
To see what this could be, then straightway  
found

It was himself in conflagration caught.

63

His very head was in a cloud of fire  
That burned not, but illumined: earth entire  
And human destiny before him lay  
Stretcht as a map. Behold, a mighty spire

64

Of faith in God and Goodness rose within  
The soul that ne'er had been conceived in sin,  
But by the Holy Ghost. All shall be saved,  
For all are brethren of supernal kin.

65

Beyond a peradventure, every soul  
Revolves at last within divine control;  
All nature glows alive unto the core,  
And Love begins and terminates the whole.

## 66

The vision faded, but the joy remained,  
 And this was his religion; theories gained  
     By church or search were swampt and  
     whelmed away,  
 Sunk in the universe anew explained.

## 67

Then ransackt he the wide historic field  
 And found that kinsfolk of the soul revealed  
     Their answering beacon-lights, which made  
     the Truth  
 No more mysterious, but a scroll unsealed.

## 68

The saints of God—the BUDDHA, CHRIST and  
     PAUL,  
 PLOTINUS, PASCAL of the fire—do all  
     Tell what they heard and saw and inly knew.  
 Behold the Holy City's outer wall.

## 69

Such is the book, no story wrought for gold,  
 But twin to MYERS, and as manifold,

Tho rugged, like the Rocky Mountain  
heights,  
Where two worlds meet, the newer and the old.

70

In ages hence, when long arcades of Truth,  
Seen in perspective from the planet's youth,  
Upbuild the vast cathedral of our thought,  
Naught shall remain of savage or uncouth.

71

Allied to Science now for evermore,  
The Soul is marching in a holy war,  
And from the minarets of light on high  
A world-muezzin doth the music pour

72

That wakes the nations from the brunt of strife  
To thought and labor, with enrichment rife,  
And warfare only with the beast within.  
Hark! 'tis the rising tide—**Eternal Life!**

## NOTES

Verse 2. The greatest promotion of spiritual truth has been made by men who have lived for religion, and not by religion. The work of Myers was exactly of this martyr quality. He was a government school inspector, and worked himself to death in his fifties to re-establish religion upon a scientific basis. The hundreds of cases of psychical phenomena collected by him and his colleagues of the Society for Psychical Research were almost entirely from non-professional sources. The professional teacher of religion or ethics on the one hand, and the paid medium on the other, play a subordinate part. Indeed, they are often actively hostile to this branch of science. The two narratives here versified from the Society's Journal are typical ones. Both are reprinted in the immortal work of Myers. Such experiences, occurring amongst people of all conditions, must, sooner or later, make themselves felt as part of the facts of life.

3 and 4. Swedenborg died in 1772; Boston Tea Party, 1773. The passage versified is from *Vera Christiana Religio* (Amsterdam, 1771, paragraph 508).

5. The allusion is to the Bedfordshire "gentry" and "justices" who dined with Sir Matthew Hale in 1661, and made merry over the fact that their moral and intellectual master was a tinker. (See Bunyan's *Grace Abounding*, near the end.) When probed to the bottom, the American Revolution was an uprising against English snobbery—that coarse assertion of superiority by mere officialism and brutal wealth against character and genius.

The Great Ouse, whereon the boro of Bedford is situated; pronounced *Ooze* (International Alphabet, u:z).

6. For neglected aspects of the American Revolution, see *The Struggle for American Independence*. By Sydney G. Fisher (Philadelphia, 1908), and also his remarkable essay: *The Legendary and Myth-Making Process in Histories of the American Revolution*, read before the American Philosophical Society, April 18, 1912. For the battle of Conjevaram in India, between the English and our French and Muhammadan allies, see London *Notes and Queries*, Feb. 2, 1861. (Pronounce *Con'jevaram'*; International Alphabet, kvnndʒevəræm.)

7. *The Sacred Books of the East*. (Oxford, 1879-1910, 50 vols.)

9. See *Buddhist and Christian Gospels*, Vol. I, pp. 77-89, for the date of this poem, and I, 185-186, for a literal translation.

9 and 12. For the significance of Balkh in the history of religion, see *Buddhist and Christian Gospels*, I, 154; also the author's article: *The Progress of Buddhist Research, with something about Pentecost*, in the *Chicago Monist*, October, 1912 (reading *brothers*, instead of the editorial "brethren," in the last sentence). For the part played by Luke in introducing Hindu elements into the Gospel, see *Buddhist Loans to Christianity* in the *Chicago Monist*, January and October, 1912, reprinted at Colombo. For the problem in general: *The Buddhist-Christian Missing Link*, in the *Chicago Open Court*, January, 1912; and *The Wandering Jew: his Probable Buddhist Origin*, in London *Notes and Queries*, January 18, 1913. These

articles are among the most important things that I have written, and it is my wish that they be reprinted at the end of *Buddhist and Christian Gospels*, in case I should not live to issue a fifth edition. Carl Clemen's useful work on *Primitive Christianity and its Non-Jewish Sources* (Giessen, 1909, in German; Edinburgh, 1912, in English) is thirty years out of date in Buddhist criticism.

11. *Lumbini* is pronounced *Lōombinee* in English conventional spelling. (International Alphabet, lumbīṇī.)

13. The problem of the lost Mark-ending and the present Mark-Appendix is treated by Kirsopp Lake: *Historical Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*. (London and New York, 1907.) See also *The Lost Resurrection Document* in the Chicago *Open Court*, March, 1910.

24. The story of Anāthapindiko's appearance to Buddha after death was (I believe) first translated into a European tongue in *Buddhist and Christian Gospels*. (Tōkyō, 1905, pp. 204-206; Philadelphia, 1909, II, 195-197; Milan, 1913, p. 266.)

Anando, Buddha's beloved disciple, pronounced Ahnundo (International Alphabet, anəndo).

27. Myers and Victoria both died in January, 1901.

28. The Society for Psychical Research, founded by a band of scholars at the University of Cambridge in 1882.

29. *Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death*. By Frederic W. H. Myers. (London, New York and Bombay, 1903.) The reference to woman is to

the editorial work of Alice Johnson and to the assistance rendered Hodgson by his secretary from 1890 to 1905. *Human Personality*, I, note to preface; II, 616.) The tiptoe expectation was such that the whole edition was sold in three weeks, and London had to call for copies on New York.

32. The case of Katy M'Guire is in the same work. (II, 214-217.)

33. There is a De Wolf Genealogy (New York, 1902) containing accounts of Dr. Oscar and his father. Curiously enough, two stanzas of *Omar* are quoted.

34. "Bronchitis-laden" was my literalistic version, but to this James E. Richardson objected. October, 1895, was the date of Wilkie's illness, and the story was written for the Society for Psychical Research by both witnesses in April and May, 1898.

36. The exact words were: Dear Doctor—Do you remember Katy M'Guire, who used to live with you in Chester? She died in 1872. She hopes you are having a good time in London.

45. The case of Hensleigh Wedgwood, brother-in-law to Darwin, and himself a scholar of note, is in Myers II, 161-167. It ought to be rescued from the small print wherein it is read at disadvantage. It is curious that in 1889, the year of Wedgwood's experience, the biographical sketch of Colonel Gurwood in the *Dictionary of National Biography* was passing thru the press. (Vol. XXIII, London, 1890.) The article confirms the planchette.

47. The planchette's words are: **Pen did for me.** Repeated with variations. A sense of humor and a sense of the sublime are equally necessary in these studies.

48. The storming of Cuidad Rodrigo, January, 1812.

50, 51. The Duke of Wellington's Dispatches were edited by Gurwood in 13 vols. (1834-1839.) The work was too much for him after the wound. He was working on the second edition (1844-1847, 8 vols.) when he died.

54. Justice must be done to the problem of our personality's final destiny, upon which the Hindus have done more thinking than all other nations combined.

56. Shelley's Essays.

59. *Cosmic Consciousness*. By R. M. Bucke. (Philadelphia, 1901.) This book was in the press simultaneously with that of Myers, and it is unfortunate that they were then unknown to each other, though Bucke alludes to the previous articles of Myers. Bucke's vision has been popularized by William James in his *Varieties of Religious Experience*.

61. London, England, not to be confounded with London, Ontario, in the life of Bucke.

68. Catholics will remember that the Buddha (known in the calendar as Josaphat) is a saint of the Roman Church (November 27) and of the Greek Church (August 26).

Blaise Pascal, in 1654, had a vision similar to Doctor Bucke's. There is no doubt that it is this

very experience that is meant in the Buddhist texts by the phrase: **entering into the flame-meditation**. For a mythical story about this, see the ascension of Dabbo, the Mallian, first translated in the Chicago *Open Court* for February, 1900, reprinted in *Buddhist and Christian Gospels* (Tōkyō, 1905, p. 192; Philadelphia, 1909, II, 174-175; Milan, 1913, p. 253).

69. Of course Bucke cannot be compared with Myers for scholarship, style or extent, but their aim is one: to re-establish religion upon a scientific basis.

# SUPPLEMENT

## Wherein the reader is introduced behind the scenes in verse-making

NOTE.—Lacking confidence in his own poetic ability, the author showed the manuscript to James E. Richardson, the poet, to whom are due the following words: *rolled*, in stanza 5; *thru thought's*, in 15; *screened apse*, instead of *vestry*, in 18. Verse 38 was also composed at his suggestion for dramatic effect, as well as 44. *The doctor mused* is Richardson's, tho the rest of the verse is simply my original draft of stanzas 36 and 39, slightly altered.

Mr. Richardson rewrote Canto I from an earlier draft, and his version is appended for the interest of students.

The poets who have influenced me most have been: Longfellow and Campbell (since 1868); Cowper (1869); Gray, Poe, Macaulay and a modicum of Byron (about 1870); Milton and Aytoun (1871); Scott (1873, lyrics earlier); Shakspeare (1874); Calverley (1877); Myers (1878); Tennyson and Wordsworth (1880, but some lyrics earlier); Whittier (1881); Shelley (1884); Matthew Arnold (1898); Burton (1901); Fitzgerald (1912). The *Omar* was read to me by Frank W. Peirson in 1898, but made little impression.

Richardson has been influenced by Swinburne and Rossetti, who have never appealed to me (except one chorus of the former's).

My dear Edmunds:

I have your drafts and have given them a day's full analysis, reaching, unfortunately, the inevitable conclusion: that your own metrical method and mine are so hopelessly dissimilar that I cannot really help you. Whatever criticism I can offer must be from a standpoint so different from yours, that I fear to accept any of it can only do more harm than good. Your own directness and my slow method,—that of crushing dissyllables, feeding in surd adjectives, and generally holding the lines back to the weariest possible elegiac drone,—have little in common. The tempo of your lines and mine, in the one case so sharp and clear and in the other so disguised and thickened with artificial pauses, must, if each of us takes a hand, give the whole thing away. Retaining the end-rhymes, I have recast the whole poem as I should originally have metrified it; using, perhaps, more of the "run-on" structure than is really characteristic of the good rubaiy. So you can see how different our notions of metre really are. I can't overcome the temptation to look at words in the artistic, as against the intellectual sense, i.e., the sound of them as against the meaning; which is very bad all round. If, however, you can use one of my own little tesserals here and there to any effect, by all means do. \* \* \*

Sincerely yours,

JAMES E. RICHARDSON.

## A DUET WITH OMAR.

In our old days Imagination reigned:  
By angel wings were Heaven's vast portals  
gained;

But now? We raise cathedrals out of fact:(a)  
*My* Heaven-aspiring verse by Truth is trained.

No priest nor wizard, muttering low for hire,  
Can whelm the spirit in Hell's ultimate fire; \*

But line by line, lo! here and there we glean  
The straws that blaze and our freed souls in-  
spire.

I saw, saith Swedenborg, no earthly hand  
Scribe on Life's temple, for high futures  
planned:

The things of faith were heretofore believed:  
Now is it lawful that we understand.

But he of Stockholm passed, and one year more  
Saw the storms rise of Change in world-wide  
war:

Strange figures in the Bay of Boston danced  
Like Northern lights upon a cloudy shore.

The planet reeled convulsed; not Brandywine  
Nor Lexington alone was made divine,  
But Dogger Bank, Azores, Conjevaram,  
Till rainbowed Stars and Stripes rolled forth  
benign.

In wilder tempests, though, was Darwin born  
To show Man's soul the meanings of the morn.

Max Müller followed, with long-hidden  
scrolls  
To save Religion from an age of scorn.

We saw the wrecks of fast-dissolving Rome  
And Alexandria grayed round with foam  
Dashed from green waves of Oriental faith;  
We clewed one live enigma to its home.

Known through Benares, Balkh and Samar-  
kand,  
The word went round that all might under-  
stand:

How one sad hermit, through the noonday's  
glare,  
Saw Heaven yawn wide with its angelic band;

The white forms as in grave celestial dance  
Move in strange ecstasy; pass round, *b* advance

To their unearthly lutings, meanwhile he  
Heard icily in his revealing trance:

THE BUDDHA WHO SHALL BE, THE PEARL UNPRICED,  
IS BORN WITH MEN TO BE THE HINDU CHRIST,  
IN SAKYA TOWN AND REALM OF LUMBINI:  
THEREFORE WE GLORY WITH A JOY SUFFICED.

Our own eyes saw the spectral caravan  
Of thought: from Balkh to Antioch it ran,  
Where Luke learned,—pondering in a  
Hebrew school,—  
The Gospel soon re-wrought and given to Man.

In the deep waters of the ancient dark  
We dived to find thy lost finale, Mark!  
How Christ appeared to Peter all alone,  
Gave him the power and left him true and  
stark.

Neanderthal and Java brought us,—skulls  
From ape-humanity's abandoned hulls  
Dry on the waste sands of Eternity . . .  
One fact . . . entire theologies . . . annuls.

Sometime, anon through thought's confused,  
blind whirl,

The voice of Ruskin, blither than a girl,  
Soothed us with music, oe'r the undertone  
Boomed from the thunderbolts Carlyle would  
hurl.

\* \* \* \* \*

Where shall we turn? Religion we have traced  
With Tylor, Frazer, from that frozen waste  
Of Man's primeval dreams. What seer of  
dawn

The nightmares of the night away hath chased?

Lo, MYERS stands forth to wrestle with the  
dark,

And fire Truth's tinder with one imminent  
spark,

Proving that Man, the million-summed  
fruit,

Dies not the death of saurian and shark.

The youth of Myers ends the Middle age;  
When Science thrust him, in ignoble rage,

Forth from the heavenly cathedral-porch,  
Back through the screened apse-window  
climbed the sage.

\*Mr. Richardson mistakes my meaning here.

Var:

- a But now we raise cathedrals out of fact,
- b "pass round"; substitute phrase of equal quantitative value. This used only for phonetic sufficiency.

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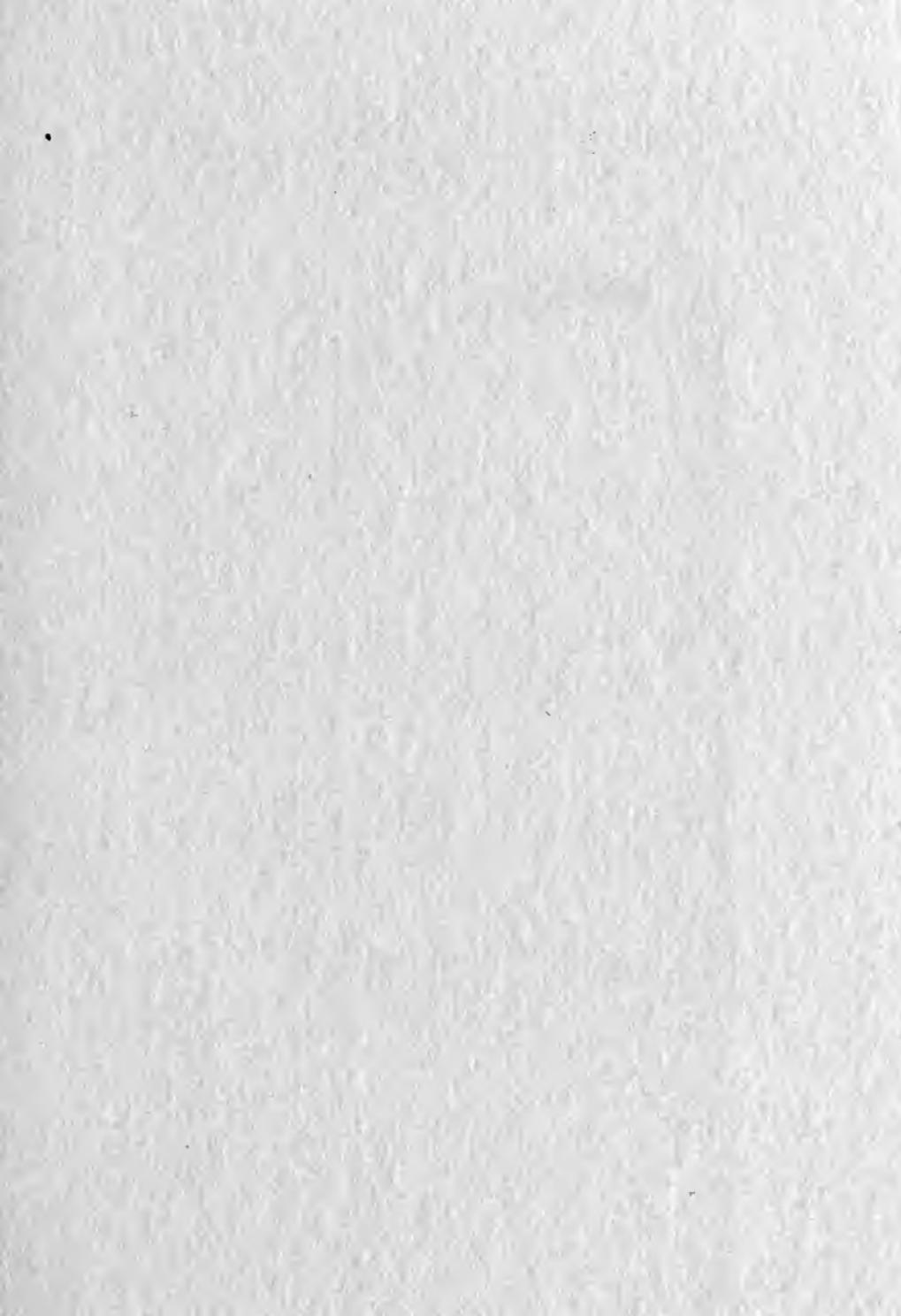
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